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Annex

Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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NORTH AFRICA

Further Report on Al-Qadhdhafi's LA STAMPA Interview
PM131219 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 11 Feb 86 p 4
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[Interview with Libyan chief of state Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi by Igor Man in Tawurgha, Libya; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tawurgha — "Allow me," Al-Qadhdhafi said, "to take the opportunity of your presence here in this tent, where I eliminate tensions and develop my thoughts, to convey, via your paper, a message to the Italian people and to Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. It is a simple and therefore concrete message: Our two countries are complementary; both our countries are bathed by the same sea, hence my hope that the Mediterranean will never again be plied by warships but instead by lines of traffic beneficial to our two economies, to my country's development — including cultural development — and to Italy's greater progress. The Mediterranean as a sea of peace..., well, to achieve this shared aspiration, I firmly believe that a meeting between the Italian prime minister and Colonel Mu'ammr could prove useful."

[Man] Well said, Colonel, but following Fiumicino, concrete gestures are needed to pave the way to such a meeting. You hinted at the possibility of urging the Palestinians to refrain from actions against friendly countries. The Palestinians' liberation struggle is one thing, blind terrorism is another.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am opposed to actions such as those at Fiumicino and Vienna, which were, among other things, senseless. I support the Palestinian people's liberation war, whose legitimacy, above all, is acknowledged by the UN Charter. I say that the responsibility for the Fiumicino action lies solely and exclusively with those who carried it out. But I must point out to those who are rightly outraged that for us, for a state that has its own laws, for a family that has its own home and that lives in a civilized fashion [umanamente], it is really difficult to put oneself in the shoes of people driven from their own land, of young people who have seen their parents and little brothers and sisters murdered, and who are guilty only of being Palestinians. Those young people cannot draw certain distinctions as we do. Who can fathom their infinite despair? Be that as it may, I will try to persuade them to fight only in Palestine. But you Italians, you

Europeans, too, should lend me a hand....

[Man] How, for instance?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Try to make the Americans understand that until the Palestinian people have been given their due not only will there never be peace in the Middle East but world peace itself will always be in jeopardy.

[Man] With regard to the Americans, Reagan has ordered the 6th Fleet to resume its maneuvers off the Gulf of Sidra....

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Reagan, Reagan: I try in vain to find a reason for his irresponsible stances. When he was elected, we believed that since he was old he would be wise. We believed that an actor is an artist and, as such, not an evil man. Instead.... But perhaps the attack on him, illness, and age have damaged his arteries. Furthermore, I am convinced that his entourage, infiltrated by Zionists, is dominating him, exploiting his senility. Thus he seems to have wanted to transform the Mediterranean into a film set in order to show off in his blustering role. However, the Mediterranean is not Hollywood: Reagan's policy endangers peace. Reagan is playing with fire.

[Man] Following Israel's act of air piracy — which was condemned by Defense Minister Spadolini on television and by Prime Minister Craxi in an interview — you said on Friday that your fighter bombers are ready to intercept Israeli aircraft "in order, if possible, to capture the terrorists Sharon, Begin, Peres, and so forth"... Let us suppose that one of your fighters is successful. Are you not afraid that it would spark a spiral of violence and counterviolence that could even cause World War III?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The danger exists. But it is they who started it; our response is legitimate. We are a sovereign country; nobody can trample all over us.

[Man] Do you not believe, Colonel, that Israel's behavior is largely a result of the Arab world's weakness? In theory the Arab world is huge and strong but it is split and therefore weak.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is why, loyal to Al-Nasir's command, I have been struggling steadfastly for the unity of the Arab world for the past 15 years. Of course, as long as we remain split, we will be weak and exposed to the permanent blackmail of force.

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[Man] Can peace be sought, perhaps by means of a compromise with Israel?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What kind of compromise can there be with the Zionist entity, a foreign body on Palestinian land.... 'Arafat and a few others delude themselves that Israel could return the West Bank and Gaza. They have learned nothing. Israel will never yield anything, not a single tile.

[Man] And so?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It will be necessary to continue fighting because Israel does not permit us to make peace. Indeed Israel's very existence is a negation of peace. The Zionists need to wage war continuously because, if the tension were ever to drop, U.S. aid would cease and the innumerable internal contradictions would come to the surface and everything would melt away like wax in the fire. In any case, I say that the fate of the Jews who came from Germany, Russia, and so forth, to occupy Palestine is sealed, just as the fate of colonialists has always been sealed. Sooner or later Israel will meet the same fate as Rhodesia.

[Man] The oil price crisis: If your revenue has decreased by 50 percent in 3 months, how will you manage to keep everything going? I know, Colonel, that you have spoken at length by telephone with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and that there has been an exchange of letters via messenger between you.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am not afraid of the oil crisis. For one thing, prices are recovering. Be that as it may, we are ready to defend ourselves tooth and nail, for instance, by freezing contracts and payments or, at best, by bringing payments into line with oil prices. Last, we could suspend production for as long as a year in order to bring the price per barrel back to its proper level. But beware: If people continue to gamble on falling oil prices the gulf war will inevitably be exacerbated and involve Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and would cause a frightening conflagration. Please stress what I am telling you: It is very important.

[Man] Mr Al-Qadhdhafi, there is constant talk of a possible 20-year agreement between the Jamahiriyah and the USSR. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What a lot of things you want to know. No Comment.

[Man] If you believed yourself to be endangered by the world's major power would you form a military alliance with the USSR?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If the situation were to deteriorate rapidly, we would have a state of emergency, so to speak, that would force me to take that step. The consequence would be the installation of very modern long-range nuclear missiles in Libya. If those deadly devices were to be installed here, Western Europe's entire missile strength automatically would be out of play. But we want peace, which is why we are hoping for a meeting with Bettino

Craxi. You tell me that socialist Craxi could find it difficult to meet with me. Nevertheless, I believe that in order to forge history you sometimes need the courage not to pay too much attention to everyday news.

WEST AFRICA

Nigeria Seeks Neighbors' Promise on Opening Borders
AB101505 Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Feb 86 p 27
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["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Lagos has sent to all neighboring countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Benin) a memorandum asking them to commit themselves in writing that they will try to control the smuggling of goods, trafficking in naira and all other illegal activities along their common borders. In return, Nigeria is ready to reopen its borders which have been closed for 2 years.

After consultations, the governments of the named countries are preparing to answer that they strongly wish that the borders be reopened but they wonder whether Nigeria will, on her part, be in a position to implement the same measures.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

UK Assumes Training Role for Botswana Army
PM131619 London THE GUARDIAN in English
12 Feb 86 p 1,32
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[Paul Ellman dispatch: "SAS To Train Botswana Army"]

[Text] Gabarone — Members of Britain's special air Services, [SAS] regiment are to train Botswanan troops in techniques to resist future South African raids and to curb infiltration by Guerrillas fighting the Pretoria Government.

According to reliable sources here, 90 members of the SAS will take part in training exercises with the Botswana Defence Force [BDF] in a remote desert area in the north of the country. The exercise will also be joined by a C-130 Hercules of the Royal Air Force.

It is believed to be the first time the SAS has conducted exercises in Southern Africa.

The sources said that the training would begin in two weeks' but that advance elements of the SAS force and equipment were already inside Botswana.

In London yesterday, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We never comment on anything regarding the SAS."

The Botswana Government has restricted its comments to a terse

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confirmation that joint training is planned.

The reticence stems in part from official hostility towards British policy on South Africa, but also from fears that the skills to be acquired from the SAS will become known to the South Africans.

It is conceded that the 3,500-man BDF would stand little chance in a stand-up fight with the powerful South African military machine. However, it is hoped that the SAS training will give the Botswanans the means to make it expensive for South Africa to repeat the raid on Gaborone which it conducted last June 14.

On that date, South African troops raided homes occupied by supporters of the banned African National Congress — The "smallest of the small fry," according to a senior Western diplomat in Gaborone — and killed 12 of them in their sleep.

Sources said that the SAS would spend about six weeks sharing part of the repertoire of skills for which the British regiment is famous.

"The BDF might in future be able to do such things as surround part of a South African raiding force by being able to react more swiftly," said a source familiar with preparations for the training exercise.

The source added that the Botswanan troops would be trained in another SAS speciality — conducting sabotage operations deep inside enemy territory.

Diplomats in Gaborone said the commanders of the BDF, Major General Mompoti Merafhe, and his deputy, Brigadier Ian Khama, were keen that their men should not take South African military attacks lying down.

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.f. Pik Botha, and Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, have alleged that Botswanan territory is used by ANC guerrillas to launch attacks inside South Africa, including recent mine blasts which killed white farmers near the border. Botswana has rejected the claims, arguing that it does its utmost to prevent ANC military activities inside its territory.

Observers in Gaborone noted that the skills to be learned from the SAS would also make it easier for the BDF to detect and counter infiltration by ANC guerrillas.

The BDF's mobility will shortly be enhanced by the arrival of a number of helicopters to be provided by the U.S. under a \$10 million military aid programme.

The U.S. is also providing special training in counter-intelligence techniques to the Botswana security forces to offset penetration by South African agents.

The possibility that the SAS men might find themselves caught up in a South African raid while they are in Botswana is ruled out in Gaborone, where it is noted that the training exercise will take place far from the scene of any likely operation.